

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA

Re: Solar Millennium Blythe Project

Witness Name: Roberto Antonio Gonzalez Vasquez, M.A

Qualifications:

Historian, educator, author & documentary filmmaker

Founder, Inland Mexican Heritage Founder, Panchebek Media

Member, La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle

Area of focus, Southern California cultural and ethnic history

Recognized as a culture bearer by the California Council for the Humanities

Producer, writer and director of 'Ancient Footprints of the Colorado River' a documentary about the Blythe Giant Intaglios (available for viewing at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxL09NhVIXI>)

Producer, writer and director of the documentary feature 'Kokopilli & the Last Giants' currently in production

On May 21, 2010 while flying over Second Mesa, west of Blythe California, an area of many known but uncharted geoglyphs, ancient native trails, and sacred sites to shoot aerial footage for an upcoming feature documentary, myself along with the pilot and another passenger observed images described below.

While we were expecting to see a large Kokopilli (Kokopelli) figure and the companion figure of Cicimiltl we were stunned to encounter a large field of geoglyphs to the east of Kokopilli. These included large anthropomorphic designs in the Fremont rock art style, a giant figure of 'Tosco' (Tezcatlipoca) wearing a horned headdress and numerous geometric non-human forms that bear further study and protection. We taped 30 minutes of footage and took still photographs of the area in question and will make a series of flyovers to expand this material into a feature documentary and for use to future researchers and cultural practitioners

Kokopilli is an ancient and universally recognized symbol. This figure may well be the first image of Kokopilli known to man. The potential for this to be a living laboratory and to restore the figures after decades of neglect and abuse would be permanently destroyed and Kokopilli wiped from the face of the Earth for the short term gain of a private entity if this project continues.

Kokopilli, the Blythe Giant Intaglios, the Topock Maze, the Bouse Fisherman and the hundreds of other smaller ceremonial and tribal gathering places where petroglyphs and other forms of cultural artifacts can be found in abundance exist only in the Palo Verde Valley and along the lower Colorado River strip. Nowhere else on the planet save the Nazca Lines in Peru, a UN World Heritage site protected by the military, contains the vast amount of geoglyphs seen in this region.

Currently all of the sites and the specific site in question are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, an agency dedicated to promoting commercial and invasive recreational uses of land under its domain. These sites are clearly in need of reclassification and reassignment of stewardship as the BLM is not equipped to manage, interpret and conduct further research necessary to preserve and protect the sites. I strongly encourage efforts towards and recommend that protection be provided for these sites and that any construction and public motorized vehicle access be immediately and permanently halted.

As a California native, a US citizen, an indigenous person and a scholar with twenty years experience in my field I am strongly opposed to any further plans for development of this global cultural resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Vasquez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Antonio Gonzalez Vasquez
Founder, Inland Mexican Heritage